

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

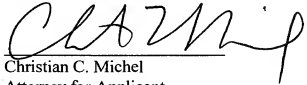
Reconsideration and allowance of the above-identified application are respectfully requested. Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-9 will be pending.

In the office action, the Examiner maintained the rejection of claims 1-9 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,340,897 to Miller. The Examiner suggests that Miller's brush structure "blocks" the nozzle surface, according to a broad interpretation of claim 1. Applications have amended claim 1 to further distinguish Miller. More specifically, claim 1 now recites: "blocking the nozzle surface from outside *such that ink cleaned from a non-nozzle surface does not recontaminate the nozzle surface*, and cleaning the non-nozzle surface of the print head *without recontaminating the nozzle surface with ink*." This is not new matter, and is described, for example, at paragraph [0043].

Since the porous brush structure of Miller would not prevent ink cleaned from the non-nozzle surface from recontaminating the nozzle surface (nor would it be intended to, in view of the vacuum structure of Miller), claim 1 as amended does not read on Miller. Accordingly, claim 1 should be allowed. Claims 3, 5, 7 and 9 have been amended to be consistent with amended claim 1. Claims 2-9 depend from claim 1, and are allowable for at least the same reasons discussed above. Accordingly, claims 2-9 should be allowed as well.

In view of the above, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance and notice to this effect is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'C. Michel', written over a horizontal line.

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